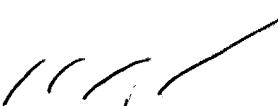


In the Claims:

  
Cancel claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 without prejudice.

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Examiner's restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed June 20, 2003.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement of restriction is respectfully requested. The Examiner has required Applicants to elect for prosecution:

- Group I, Claims 1-2 and 5-6, drawn to a stable skin care composition containing retinoid compounds and retinoid boosters.
- Group II, Claims 3 and 7, drawn to a method for conditioning skin by applying a stable skin care composition containing retinoid compounds and retinoid boosters.
- Group III, Claims 4 and 8, drawn to a method of mimicking the effects of retinoic acid.

The respective claims are classified in the same classes and subclasses, and it is respectfully submitted that only a single search would be appropriate and, accordingly, the Patent Office should consider the three inventions together.

According to the Office Action, the search of the diverse subject matter of the invention would represent an undue burden on the Examiner. Applicants respectfully traverse this basis of rejection and suggest that the search may be facilitated by starting with the results of the PCT Search Report, which was supplied for the record by Applicants with the Supplemental Information Statement of July 18, 2002. All the claims were searched in the PCT. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

While the requirement of restriction is traversed, and reconsideration requested, Applicants have elected Group I, claims 1-2 and 5-6, drawn to a stable skin care product containing retinoid compounds, retinoid boosters and phytoestrogens.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ellen Plotkin  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 36,636

(201) 840-2553